

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 AID-05 /111 W

----- 127245

R 221630Z DEC 75

FM AMEMASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3547

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 3645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AG, MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: MAURITANIA'S REPORT TO HAVE TAKEN LA GUERA

1. ALGERIAN MEDIA DEC. 21-22 REPORT THAT TOWN OF LA GUERA IN EXTREME SOUTH OF SPANISH SAHARA FELL TO MAURITANIAN FORCES. DATE OF MAURITANIAN OCCUPATION VARIOUSLY GIVEN AS DEC. 19 AND 20. PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT TOWN FELL AFTER HEAVY ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT AND AIR AND SEA ATTACKS AND THAT HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS HAD BEEN KILLED. MEDIA ALL INDICATE THAT MOROCCAN FORCES PLAYED ROLE IN CAPTURE AND ONE ACCOUNT SUGGESTS FRENCH UNITS BASED IN DAKAR MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED; A SECOND SAYS THAT, ACCORDING TO GOOD INFORMATION, SPANISH HELICOPTERS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN NEUTRALIZING POCKETS OF POLIARIO RESISTANCE.

2. PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY HAD LITTLE SAHARAN NEWS, EVENING NEWS DEC. 21 AND PRESS DEC. 22 DEVOTED LESS SPACE TO SPANISH SAHARA. OPEC HIJACKING AND CONFERENCE ON SOCIALIST MANAGEMENT OF ENTERPRISES HAVE DEPRIVED SAHARA OF ITS CUSTOMARY LEADING PLACE IN

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PRESS AND ON RADIO AND TV.

3. COMMENT: MAHBES IN NORTHEASTERN SAHARA IS NOW,
ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, ONLY SAHARAN POPULATION
CENTER STILL IN POLISARIO HANDS.PARKER

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NNN

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